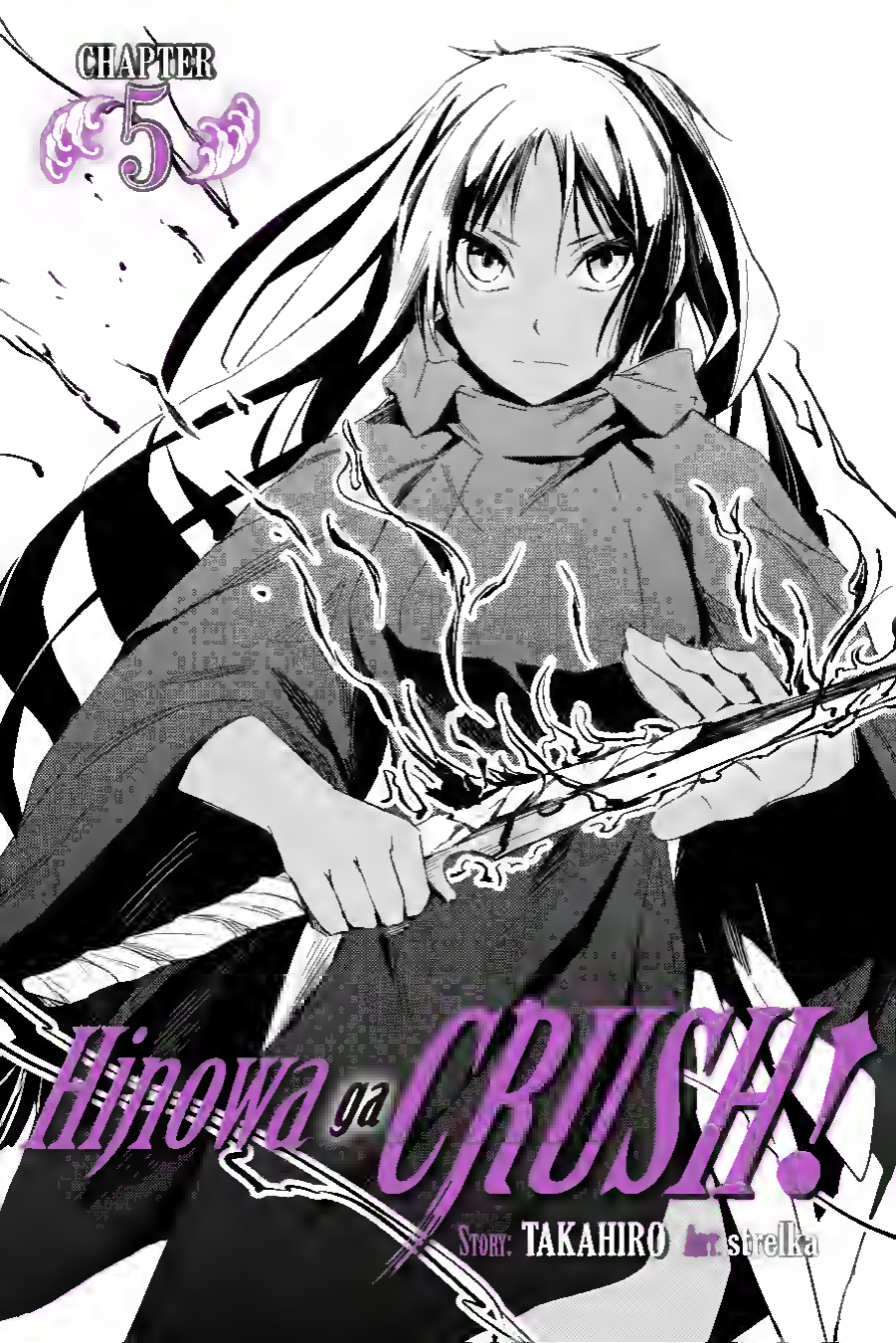
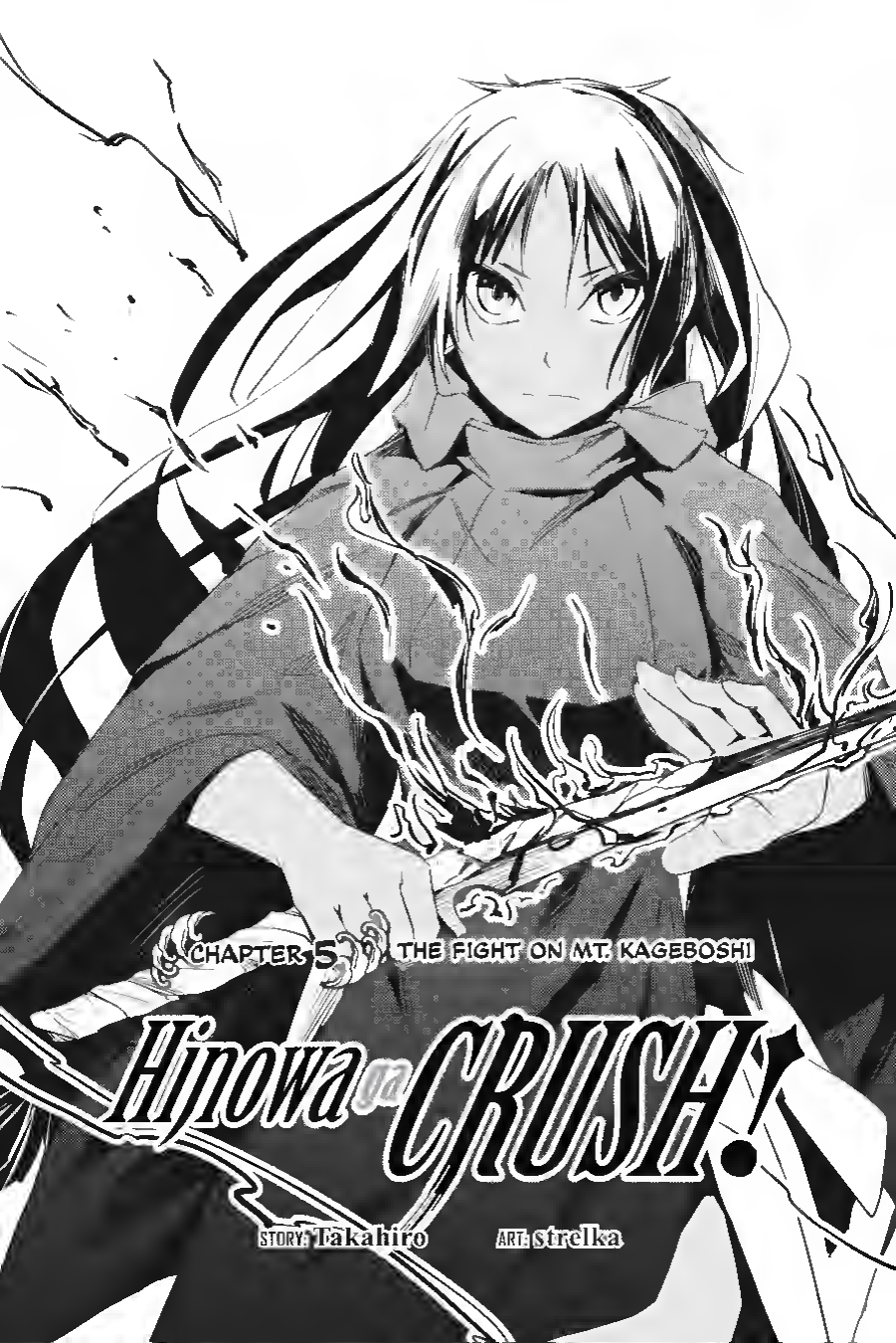
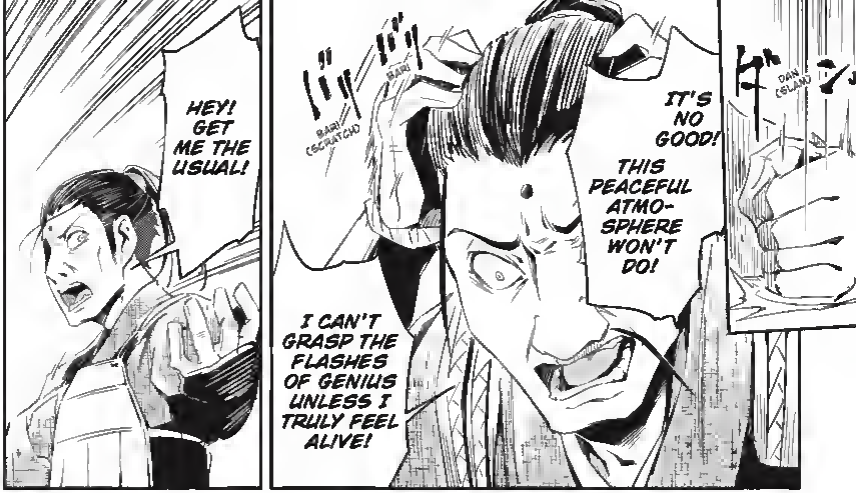

CHAPTER
5
Hinowa ga CRUSH!
Story: TAKAHIRO Art: strelka

THE TENROU NATION—
RULING THE CENTER OF WAKOKU, THIS COUNTRY BOASTS THE STRONGEST MILITARY STRENGTH.
THE SEA TO THE SOUTH WAS CONTROLLED BY THE BLACK LAKE NATION AND NO SHIPS COULD GET THROUGH.
TENROU NATION
SOUKAI NATION
ONE WAS THAT IT DIDN'T POSSESS ANY TERRITORY SUITABLE FOR ADVANCING ONTO THE OPEN SEA.
BUT EVEN THE TENROU NATION HAD ITS WORRIES.
THE SOUKAI NATION HAD PROSPERED THROUGH ITS SOUTH SEA COMMERCE, AND IT EMULOUSLY INTERCEPTED AND REMAINS TO THIS DAY, NEVER BUDGING.
TENROU NATION
THE SMALLEST AND MOST POWERLESS OF ALL, THE SOUKAI NATION, FACED THE OCEAN—THE TENROU NATION SET THEIR SIGHTS ON IT, CONTINUALLY DISPATCHING TROOPS.
SOUKAI NATION


CHAPTER 5 THE FIGHT ON MT. KAGEBOSHI
Hinowa ga CRUSH!
STORY: Takahiro
ART: strelka

AT SEA IN SOU-KAI TER-RITO-RY
LORD SHION! THE DEFENSE AT SHIRANUI FORTRESS IS FLAW-LESS.
THEY AREN'T LETTING THE TENROU ARMY ENEMY ANYWHERE NEAR!
I THOUGHT THEY'D MAKE A SURPRISE ATTACK FROM THE OCEAN, BUT IT'S ALL QUIET OUT HERE.
I GUESS THE SOU-KAI TAUGHT THEM A LESSON ABOUT NAVAL BATTLES.
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
SOUKAI NATION STRATE-GIST
SHION
IF THEY TAKE OVER SHIRANUI, IT'S ALL OVER.
HOW SHALL WE MOVE, NOW?
SHALL WE BE ON STANDBY ON THE WATER?
HMMM…


HEY! GET ME THE USUAL!
BARI (SCRATCH)
BARI
I CAN'T GRASP THE FLASHES OF GENIUS UNLESS I TRULY FEEL ALIVE!
THIS PEACEFUL ATMO-SPHERE WON'T DO!
IT'S NO GOOD!
DAN (SLAM)

A RAY... THAT'LL DO.
TODAY WE HAVE A RAY INSTEAD OF AN OCTO-PUS.
IT'S ALL READY FOR YOU!

OOH!
OOH!
HNGH!! THAT'S IT!!
RIGHT NOW, I FEEL...
...ALIVE!!
ビクン
BIKU
ビクン
BIKU (TWITCH)
OH.. OH.
ブル
BURU
OOH ...!
ブー
BURU (TREMBLE)
THE ENEMY CHOSE A PLAN THAT INVOLVED TRAVELING THROUGH A PRECIPICE EAST OF THE FORTRESS!
ガ
GA (CRASH)
THAT'S IT! I'VE GOT IT!
カ!!
KA (FLASH)

LEAVE SOME DEFENSES HERE. THE REST WILL HEAD TO MOUNT KAGE-BOUSHI!
YES, SIR!
IT'S SCARY HOW HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE ALWAYS CORRECT...
I WAS SO SURE IT WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE TO STATION LORD MARUGE ON THE MOUNTAIN AS DEFENSE.
I ALWAYS KNEW HE WASN'T THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED, BUT IT SEEMS I SHOULD RECONSIDER.
GATA (TREMBLE)
AN E-E-E-ENEMY ATTACK!?
H-HOW MANY ARE THERE!?
SOUKAI NATION COM-MANDER MARUGE

I DON'T KNOW, LORD MARUGE!
IT'S LIKE THEY CAME RIGHT OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN ITSELF!
WH-WHATEVER THE CASE, KEEP THEM AWAY!
SA/ (RUSH)
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
THE ENEMY MUST BE ANNIHILATED!
YES, SIR!
KATA (SHIVER)
KATA
NOT GOOD. NOT GOOD...
NOT GOOD AT ALL!!
MY LIFE BEING IN DANGER IS NOT GOOD AT ALL!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WOULD COME BY SUCH A DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN PASS!
WHAT IS THE ENEMY THINK-IIIIING !?
NOR THE FACT THAT I GOT SO SPOOKED I PISSED MY PANTS!

WAAAH!
WAAAH!
JAKI
CHINK
HASHU
(TWANG)
SHU!
SHU!

GYUUUU
SHING
!
THAT...
THAT BRAT BLOCKED THEM ALL!

GASA (RUSTLE)
HYAH!
...!
HEH.
GOT YOU...
...NOW!
SHA (STAB)

YOU SAVED ME, SUZU-MARU.
.....!
WHAT A FRIGHTFUL SCENE AND SMELL... SO THIS IS WHAT A BATTLEFIELD IS LIKE.
WE WERE A LITTLE TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IT...

HEY, SUZU-MARU.
DON'T GET DIS-TRACTED!!
I'M SORRY, HINOWA! I GOT LOST IN THOUGHT THERE...!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL! CALM DOWN!
THEY'RE STILL TOO CLOSE!
LET'S SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS IN THEIR FIGHTS...
...WHILE WE HURRY TO LORD MARUGE UNIT!

I ALMOST LOST MYSELF IN THOUGHT AFTER I'D KILLED PEOPLE TOO!
BUT...
YOU'RE ADAPTING TO THE BATTLE-FIELD WITHOUT A HITCH.
YOU'RE AMAZING, HINOWA.
THEN I'M YELLING IN A LOUD VOICE!
GETTING MYSELF ALL PUMPED UP!
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, HINOWA.
...MY BODY MOVED ON ITS OWN!
...THE MOMENT I WON-DER IF EVERY-ONE'S OKAY ...

I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE READY TO FIGHT FOR THE PERSON I LOVE.
I HAVE TO KEEP IT TOGETHER.
HINOWA. LOOKING AT THE TENROU SOLDIERS, I REALIZED SOMETHING.
OOH. YOUR OBSERVATIONS ARE ALWAYS DEPENDABLE.
THEY MOVE WITH THE NIMBLENESS OF WOLVES ACCUSTOMED TO THE MOUNTAIN.
BUT THEIR ACTIONS LACK DISCIPLINE.
I WONDER IF MOUNTAIN BANDITS ARE INCLUDED AMONG THEIR RANKS.
RIGHT.
THE TENROU ARMY MAY HAVE CAPTURED BANDITS AND BROUGHT THEM TO THE BATTLEFIELD.
A SUICIDE CORPS TRAVELING THROUGH THIS DANGEROUS MOUNTAIN PASS...
...I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S THAT MANY OF THEM.

SO THAT WAS THEIR STRATEGY.
ALL RIGHT.
SUIIU CHARGED
EVERY-ONE!!
THERE'S NOT THAT MANY OF THE ENEMY!!
DON'T PANIC. GROUP UP AND FIGHT!!
...CAPTAIN HINOWA!!
ALL RIGHT. GROUP UP! BAND TOGETH-ER!
YOU CAN LEAVE IT TO US!!
THERE'S NOT THAT MANY OF THE ENEMY!!
!
...WHAT'S THAT VOICE? WHO IS THAT?

ヒソ
HISO
IF WE DON'T GET IT DONE HERE, WE'LL LOSE OUR HEADS...!
LET'S MAKE A MAD DASH.
IT'LL DISBAND THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WIPING THEM OUT. JUST GO FOR THE COMMANDER!
ヒソ
HISO (WHISPER)
HEY. THERE'S A FEW SOUKAI SOLDIERS WITH REAL SKILL!

AS SUZUMARU HAD SURMISED, THEY WERE FORMER BANDITS.
THEY'D BEEN CAPTURED BY YOMIHIME AND ORDERED TO CROSS THE MOUNTAIN IN EXCHANGE FOR A REDUCTION OF THEIR SENTENCE.
オオオオオオオ
OOOOOO (ROAR)
ヒソ
HISO
ビソ
HISO (SHUDDER)
!

DON'T LET THEM NEAR LORD MARUGE ...!
TH... THEY'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.
オオォオ……オオ
EE!
EEEEEE!
ZA (CRASH)
LEAVE THEM TO ME.
ZA
ZA
SU (SWIP)

ZAN
(SLASH)

I'M FINE.
HISAME!
TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS.
DOCHA (SFLAT)

THIS ISN'T AN ORGANIZED WAR. IT'S A MELEE ON A MOUNTAIN... AND IT'S EACH OF US INTERCEPTING FREEFORM WITHOUT ANY REAL DIRECTION.
I'M USED TO THIS.
THAT'S MY HISAME.

...TO EARN MY SUCCESS!
I'LL CUT DOWN ALL THESE ENEMIES AND PROTECT THE COMMANDER...
I CAN SEE FINE FROM HERE. JUST FINE FROM HERE.
THIS IS THE BEGIN-NING...
...OF THE KUME-HACHI LEGEND.
GIRIRI (PULL)

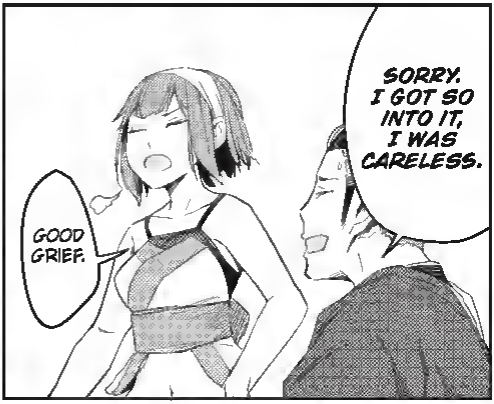
!!
KI (THUNG)
SA (SHH)
...TWO!
UWAAAH!
RISHU (SHOT)

...AND FOR THE NEXT ONE ...
THAT GOT ABOUT TEN OF THEM.
WHOA!
DIE!
FU SHU
GUH!

DON'T GET COCKY AND FORGET TO CHECK YOUR SURROUN-DINGS. UNDERSTAND?

HAH!!
GWAH!?
HINOWA!

CAN YOU SEE TOBARI FROM HERE?


SORRY. I GOT SO INTO IT, I WAS CARELESS.
GOOD GRIEF.

YES.
HINOWA.
ARE YOU GOING AROUND AND CHECKING ON ALL OF US?
.....
IT'S DIRE OUT THERE. WE UNDERESTIMATED WHAT THE BATTLEFIELD COULD BE LIKE.
WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON OUR ENERGIES!
GYU (SQUEEZE)
EVEN ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, YOU'RE STILL HINOWA.

YOMI-HIME-SAMA!
THE ENEMY'S DEFENSES ARE TIGHT AND NOT LETTING A SINGLE OF OUR NUMBER THROUGH!

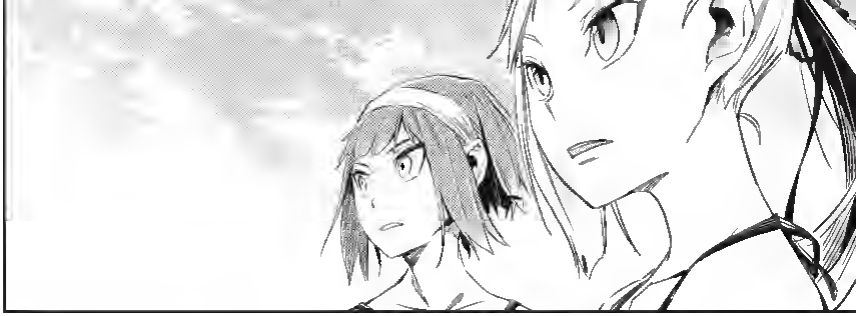
EVEN IF THEY HAVE SOLDIERS ON THE DEFENSE, I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF THEM.
I'VE DISPATCHED MY ENTIRE FIRST UNIT AT THIS POINT.

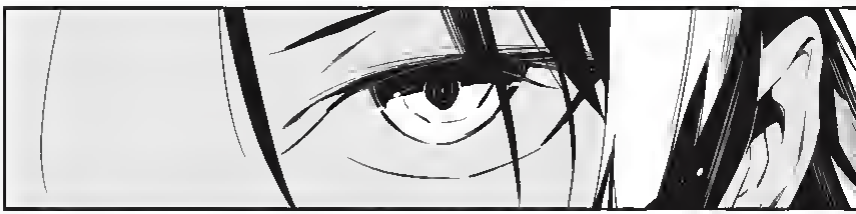
I SEE.

IT MUST MEAN THEY PREDICTED OUR STRATEGY OF PASSING THROUGH MOUNT KAGEBOUSHI TO GET BEHIND SHIRANUI.
I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO SEND HALF THE FORCES OF SHIRANUI FORTRESS TO DEFEND HERE.
TAKE THAT! AND THAT! AND THAT! OUTTA MY WAY! MOVE IT OR LOSE IT!
COMMAN-DER!
YOU SMALL FRIES !!
WHERE'S THE COM-MANDER!!

YEAH, BUT...
...I WANT EVEN MORE MILITARY ACHIEVE-MENTS!
YOU AREN'T LOSING YOUR-SELF, ARE YOU, TOBARI?
YOU'RE STICKING YOUR NECK TOO FAR OUT THERE, TOBARI!
HINOWA!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!
IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED!
THIS IS LIKE HUNTING IN THE WILD!
I WILL KILL! I WILL KILL!
I THINK YOU'RE LOSING YOURSELF IN A DIFFERENT WAY, THOUGH.
CALM DOWN!!
SACHIN
SACHIN (CLANG)

YOUR FIRST ORDER IS TO KEEP THEM AWAY.
WE SHOULD BE ASKING FOR FURTHER ORDERS...
TA (THUD)





I WAS WONDERING WHO WAS CAUSING THIS RIOT.
...A COUPLE OF KIDS.
IMPRESSIVE, CONSIDERING YOUR WEAPONS AREN'T EVEN MEIHOU.

ZOWA (CHILL)
ぞわ

BUT THAT'S ODD.
...HM?
DIDN'T I MEET YOU...
...ON THE WATERS OF RYUUMON CASTLE?
!?
I'M SURE I KILLED YOU.

I'D HEARD THAT MY MOTHER DIED IN BATTLE.
SO IT WAS YOU ...!
YOU ...
AH!
!
YOU'RE HER DAUGHTER?
CAPTAIN HINOWA!
PLEASE GET AWAY!

SHE'S...
HUFF!
HUFF!
SHE'S ... ...TOO STRONG !!
SO YOU'RE THEIR COMMANDER!
GIGHN (CLANG)

TOBARI!
!!
ZUSHU (SLICE)
!!
DOSA (THUD)

I'LL SEND YOU WHERE I SENT YOUR MOTHER.
BO (FWOOSH)
GO AND WALK...
...TO HELL.
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER...!

Hinowa ga CRUSH!
Chapter 5

Takahiro
strelka

Translation: Christine Dashiell • Lettering: Rochelle Gancio

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